Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5141

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0435

STADIS//////////////////////////////

FOR DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY READ FROM AMBASSADOR LERNER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AODE, NO
SUBJECT: MODE REVIEW OF DAO

REF: STATE 016796

1. MANY THANKS FOR YOUR MESSAGE ON MY PROPOSED REDUCTIONS IN OUR DAO STAFF. I APPRECIATE THE ATTENTION YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GIVE TO THESE RECOMMENDATIONS AND LOOK FORWARD TO AN EARLY DECISION SINCE SEVERAL INVOLVE TRANSFERS DUE TO TAKE PLACE THIS SUMMER.

2. I AM AFRAID I DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE RATIONALE BEHIND THE EUR/INR VIEW ON BAUMGARTNER. THE ISSUE IS NOT BAUMGARTNER'S QUALIFICATIONS, WHICH I AM SURE ARE OF THE HIGHEST ORDER. TO STATE THE PROBLEM IN TERMS OF THE MAN OR HIS QUALIFICATIONS IS TO MISSTATE IT. WE SHOULD LOOK FIRST AT THE JOB TO BE DONE AND THEN DECIDE HOW BEST TO STAFF FOR THAT JOB. AFTER A CAREFUL REVIEW OF USG INTERESTS HERE, I DO NOT SEE HOW WE CAN JUSTIFY HAVING TWO AIR ATTACHES, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR QUALIFICATIONS, AT A TIME WHEN THE PRESIDENT'S EXPRESSED DESIRE IS TO REDUCE AMERICAN STAFFING TO THE NECESSARY MINIMUM.
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3. EUR AND INR SEEM TO BE SAYING THAT THEY AGREE WITH MY ASSESSMENT OF THE MINIMUM NECESSARY STAFFING BUT WOULD PREFER TO PUT OFF IMPLEMENTING THE CONSEQUENCES OF THAT ASSESSMENT FOR TWO YEARS. I CANNOT SEE THE WISDOM OF DELAYING AND FRANKLY SEE THAT TACTIC AS ONE GUARANTEED TO ALLOW DIA TO ENGAGE IN SPECIAL PLEADING AND APPEALS FOR

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ANOTHER TWO YEARS. IF WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO PERSUADE DIA
THAT WE ARE RIGHT, LET'S FACE THAT BATTLE NOW AND NOT LATER.

4. THEREFORE, INSOFAR AS IT CONCERNS THE AIR ATTACHES, MY
CONCLUSIONS ARE: A) THE JOB CAN BE DONE WITH ONE MAN; AND B)
THAT THE TIME TO SHIFT TO A ONE-MAN OPERATION IS THIS SUMMER
WITH BURRIS' DEPARTURE. IF THE AIR FORCE PREFERS TO BE
REPRESENTED BY BAUMGARTNER INSTEAD OF, BUT NOT IN ADDITION TO,
SETLOW THEN THAT IS FINE WITH ME, TOO. GIVEN THE HIGH QUALIFI-
CATIONS WHICH EVERYONE SAYS BAUMGARTNER HAS, I AM CONFIDENT
HE CAN BE ADEQUATELY BRIEFED FOR SUCH EXPANDED RESPONSIBILITIES
IN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS. SUCH A COURSE WOULD NATURALLY ENTAIL
A HARDSHIP ON SETLOW BUT I LEAVE THAT FOR THE AIR FORCE TO
ASSESS.

5. AS TO THE OTHER SUBJECTS RAISED, I AGREE WITH THE ABOLITION
OF THE ASSISTANT NAVAL ATTACHE'S JOB WHEN CLAY LEAVES IN JUNE.
I WOULD LIKE TO NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT THE NAVY HAS NONETHELESS
NOMINATED A REPLACEMENT (ESTES) TO WHICH I HAVE NOT CONCURRED.
AS OUR PREVIOUS MESSAGES HAVE INDICATED, IT IS ONLY FAIR TO
ESTES THAT HE BE INFORMED OF THE ABOLITION OF THE JOB
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

6. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THE DAO CAN MAKE DO WITH ONLY
TWO LOCAL POSITIONS, THOUGH BECAUSE OF AN ILLNESS IT MAY BE
THAT WE WILL PREFER TO ABOLISH THE RECEPTIONIST/TRANSLATOR
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POSITION. I WOULD THEREFORE PREFER TO HAVE THE FLEXIBILITY OF WORKING
WITH MY DATT ON WHICH POSITION IS IT BEST TO ABOLISH.

7. I HAVE NO PROBLEMS AT ALL WITH REDUCING THE ARMA AND
AIRA TO LTCOL RANK. BUT THAT IS A MUCH LESS IMPORTANT OR
TIMELY ISSUE THAT REDUCING THE NUMBER OF OFFICERS HERE. IT
THEREFORE MAY BE TACTICALLY BEST TO HOLD UP ON THAT PROPOSAL
FOR THE TIME BEING.

8. I LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING YOUR VIEWS ON THESE IMPORTANT
ISSUES.
LERNER

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